

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 385 without my signature.

As an immigrant whose second language is English, I know the importance of mastering English as quickly and as comprehensively as possible, in order to be successful in the United States. This bill runs counter to that goal by eliminating testing in English for limited-English-proficient (LEP) students until they have been in school in the United States for three consecutive years. By requiring testing of students in English only after three years, this bill would further weaken incentives for LEP students and their schools to work towards English proficiency.

My Administration shall continue to work on behalf of English learners so that school districts, principals, teachers, parents, and all students can concentrate on the goal of improving student achievement.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger